



Navajo Nation Health Command Operation Center

Navajo Department of Health

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Navajo Health Command Operation Center implements Unified Command Group to respond to COVID-19 efforts on the Navajo Nation

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – This week, the Navajo Nation Health Command Operations Center (HCOC) implemented a Unified Command Group (UCG) to support the incident command system. The UCG provides a unified, coordinated, and interactive approach to the COVID-19 response efforts on the Navajo Nation, and helps to set priorities for the HCOC.

The unified command is a structure that brings together the incident commanders or leaders of the major agencies involved in the incident and provides a critical element in increasing the effectiveness of multi-jurisdictional incidents. As the spread of COVID-19 becomes more complex, the need for a unified command is critical in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

The unified command includes the Navajo Nation Department of Health, Navajo Area Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs – Navajo Region, and the Tribal Health Organizations.

The UCG recognizes a set of incident objectives and strategies that all partners can subscribe to, such as the following:

- Support for Navajo health care system by expanding COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and case management programs
- Develop and implement a non-congregant and congregate sheltering program
- Maintain safety and accountability for tribal, state, and federal workforce
- Recruit staff and maintain continuity of Navajo Nation personnel responding to COVID-19
- Prioritize commodity delivery to those testing positive or exposed to COVID-19
- Strengthen health messaging on public health orders and recommendations related to COVID-19 preventative measures.
- Enforce public health orders

The unified command provides a collective approach to develop strategies to achieve incident objectives. All agencies are fully aware of the plans, actions, and constraints of each other, allowing for a streamlined process that reduces duplication of effort allowing Navajo, Federal and State partners to come together and end the spread of COVID-19.

For more general COVID-19 information, helpful prevention tips, and more resources, please visit the Navajo Department of Health's COVID-19 website at <http://www.ndoh.navajonnsn.gov/COVID-19>. To contact the primary Navajo Health Command Operations Center, please email <mailto:coronavirus.info@nndoh.org> or call (928) 871-6855.

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